

Legislative Bulletin.....November 16, 2005

H.R. 1065 — United States Boxing Commission Act Amendments

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1. Stearns (R-FL): Manager's Amendment. The amendment specifies that the Commission *may* charge and collect fees "sufficient for the operation of the operation of the Commission and the administration of this Act." Under the reported bill, CBO estimated the Commission would cost \$26 million over five years. This modification, according to the sponsor's office, will clarify that the Commission may charge fees to cover the cost of the Commission and its administration. The amendment also clarifies that offsetting collections are available to the Commission, subject to appropriation.

2. Filner (D-CA): Requires the Boxing Commission to: require a copy of a boxing match contract to be filed with the Commission; establish minimum standards for the availability of medical services at professional boxing matches; "encourage" a life, accident, and health insurance fund for professional boxers and others in the boxing community; conduct discussions and enter into agreements with foreign boxing entities on methods of applying minimum health and safety standards to foreign boxing events and personnel.

3. Sodrel (R-IN) #6: The amendment, which is drafted for the reported version of the bill, sought to ensure that the fees collected by the Commission shall be "sufficient for the operation of the operation of the Commission and the administration of this Act." Because the manager's amendment has incorporated this change, following the assumed passage of the manager's amendment, the sponsor's office has indicated this amendment likely be offered and withdrawn.

4. Filner (D-CA): Requires the Commission, within one year of enactment, to develop and publish guidelines establishing "consistent and objective criteria" for the rating professional boxers; provides that boxing organizations may not be issued a license unless they adopt and carry out the procedures for rating boxers.

5. Sodrel (R-IN) #1: Eliminates the authorization of appropriations in the bill. The bill authorizes "such sums as may be necessary" and CBO scores the reported bill as costing \$26 million over five years. The sponsor contends, even after passage of the manager's amendment, if section 14 (the authorization of appropriations section) is allowed to remain in the bill, it is possible the Commission *may* charge fees sufficient to cover its activities, but taxpayers could still be forced to fund the Commission through the normal appropriations process. By eliminating this section, the new federal Boxing Commission will only be able to exist through the fees it charges to those promoting and benefiting from the boxing industry.

The sponsor argues, "if Professional Boxing cannot regulate itself effectively and a national commission to do the job must be formed, then the sports' revenues should be used to pay for it."

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